

Planting Something



**Marvin and Hilary
Nelson**

**Office: (412) 321-4333
Cell: (412) 657-7018**

**Email:
Marvin.nelson@acac.
net**

This past month has been incredible! I am so excited to share with you all that God has shown me as well as things I'm already seeing him do. I will start by bullet-pointing some things I've noticed, followed by my summary of Hilary and my trip to Penn State and ending with some prayer requests!

- The idea of unity--unifying as separate ministries for one cause--has been widely accepted and deeply welcome

- There is hope for this generation! Many people may have discounted the College generation but I have engaged with many and sense God stirring something here in Oakland especially.

- A Multi-ethnic Church plant is not only needed but wanted by many. I have heard time and time again the excitement in the voices of people as they affirm what we are being led by God to do.

So far, I have met with:

- Paul Hassel- Intervarsity
- Aaron Henning (Penn State model)
- Steve Lutz (Penn State CCO guy and author of Campus Ministry in a Post-Christian World)
- Nate Morrison
- Joy Ike- Musician and Oakland native
- Mark Helsel- Young Adult Pastor at Christ Church
- Ryan and Shanna M.- Young adults who desire to plug in
- Maleek Young (a new edition to the team!)
- Gabriel Crawford

PENN STATE



This month, Hilary and I traveled to Penn State to get a glimpse of the model there called ACF (Alliance Christian Fellowship).

This is the very model that got our elders and leaders excited about doing a Campus Ministry. While there, Hilary and I learned a vast array of things and saw the beauty of College Students not only engaged in worship but engaged in running a ministry as well.

Hilary and I spent tons of time with Aaron Henning and his wife Amy as we prodded them with questions as to how they do things, how they delegate certain jobs out, what their connection to the home church looks like and how much time they invest in

the different areas of ministry.

Listening (and seeing) all of their answers was worth the trip ten-fold because what we learned gave us not only a sense of deeper conviction that what God has called us to do is this very venture but also of hope that this will not be in vain! Actually seeing and engaging in the ministry there allowed us to catch a glimpse of what God will do here in Pittsburgh.

Some of the set up will be different than ACF here, due mainly to the 5 campuses we have in a 5 mile radius opposed to their 1 but also due to the desire for being intentionally multi-ethnic. We will have similar challenges that they do but also different ones as well. If I were to summarize our experience in State College, it would be that Hilary and I learned 2 things:

- Training and raising up college students to own and help run the ministry is key to success.
- Hilary's role was better laid out in our hearts and minds as we saw a picture through Amy and Aaron's life (which was an answer to prayer from last month).

PRAY:

- God will lead me to the students he desires to be leaders of this plant
- God will lead me to adults from ACAC who will be mentors to these college leaders and deeply involved in the launch
- God will continue to give favor with the other churches and ministries as we look to partner with them in this multi-ethnic plant
- God will provide free parking for me down here in Oakland. There hasn't been an answer yet to this but please keep praying
- Against Satan and his desires to thwart this venture. The last plant similar to this saw their leader shot and the rest ended badly.
- For Gospel oriented conversations with random people. Pray God will use my time down here to think pray and lead others to Jesus
- For discernment on where to hold services and at what times
- For Hilary and I to be learners and to keep praying, listening, reading and studying.

We covet your prayers and am lucky to have all of you alongside Hilary and I in this venture. Please lift us up in prayer as we both seek to love these students!

